REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Applicants have not amended any of the claims, but have traversed the obvious-type double patenting rejections. The applicants have also amended the specification in order to place the present patent application in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that no new matter has been added by this response.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to informalities in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to address the cited informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Response to Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,829. The 6,529,829 patent was filed on the same day as this patent application. Thus, a terminal disclaimer will not disclaim any time and the obvious-type double patenting rejection is moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,829. The 6,529,829 patent was filed on the same day as this patent application. Thus, a terminal disclaimer will not disclaim any time and the obvious-type double patenting rejection is moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-20 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,161. The

6,466,161 patent was filed on the same day as this patent application. Thus, a terminal

disclaimer will not disclaim any time and the obvious-type double patenting rejection is moot.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-20 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type

double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,680,695. The

6,680,695 patent was filed on the same day as this patent application. Thus, a terminal

disclaimer will not disclaim any time and the obvious-type double patenting rejection is moot.

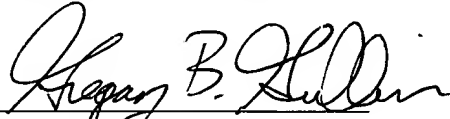Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-20 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type

double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,829. The

6,529,829 patent was filed on the same day as this patent application. Thus, a terminal

disclaimer is not able to disclaim any time and the obvious-type double patenting rejection is

moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-20 are in condition for

allowance.

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-20 under the judicially created doctrine of

obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent Application

No. 09/909,716. Applicants filed the current application the same day as patent application

09/909,716. Therefore, the term of a patent that issues from the current patent application will be

the same as any patent that issues from the 09/909,716 patent application and the provisional

rejection is moot. Thus, claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing discussion and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the amended specification and claims 1-20 as presented are in a condition for allowance, for which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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